



North Pole  
Refinery

1.2  
No Date

NORTH POLE REFINERY  
.25 RICHARDSON HIGHWAY  
NORTH POLE, ALASKA  
EPA ID #AK-D000850701

CONTACTS:

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James Boltz, Plant Manager (907) 488-2741

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The North Pole Refinery is an active facility which began operations in 1977. The refinery was purchased by MAPCO Petroleum Company in 1980 from Earth Resources Company of Alaska. The facility distills petroleum and operates as a "non-cracking" refinery. The refinery produces jet fuel, kerosene, diesel fuel, and turbine fuel. The refinery obtains its crude oil from the Alyeska pipeline. The refinery uses various oil additives such as ethylene and propylene glycol, chemicals to adjust the pH, and water removal chemicals. Mr. Boltz, Plant Manager, indicated that the refinery does not generate a significant quantity of hazardous waste. Residual oil or "bottoms" from the distillation column are re-injected back into the Alyeska pipeline. Waste oil from machinery, refinery waste oils, and waste fuels are also injected back into the pipeline.

The refinery is located in a sparsely populated section of North Pole, 14 miles southeast of Fairbanks. The terrain around the site is mainly flat. The site is approximately three-quarters of a mile from the Tanana River. According to J. Boltz, the depth of the four refinery water wells is approximately 150 feet. The site covers an area of approximately 20 acres.

WORK DONE AT THE SITE:

The EPA Field Investigation Team (FIT) inspected the facility in August of 1980 and concluded that the facility did not appear to be generating any hazardous wastes that were being stored or disposed of onsite. Tetra Tech, Inc. investigated the site in the summer of 1984 and also concluded that the facility



did not store hazardous wastes. It was noted that the facility landfilled its solid refuse at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Landfill.

The facility has an SPCC plan and the storage tanks are surrounded by adequate berms.

CURRENT STATUS:

The North Pole Refinery is a small oil distillation refinery with 500,00 gallons of oil storage capacity. The facility is reportedly increasing its storage capacity.

Hazardous substances used as oil additives are located on the site. However, these substances are properly controlled and stored in tanks. The refinery is reportedly clean on the surface and in good condition. Waste oil and refinery wastes are either re-refined or re-injected back into the Alyeska pipeline.

WORK NEEDED AT THE SITE:

The North Pole Refinery is presently expanding its oil storage capacity. All new storage areas should comply with SPCC regulations. A site inspection should be performed to determine the following:

- Records of past spills
- An inventory of all hazardous substances onsite
- Past onsite disposal practices by the previous owner, Earth Resources Company.

POTENTIAL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

This facility does not store hazardous wastes. Whatever wastes are generated are either re-refined or injected back into the pipeline. Therefore, immediate action is not warranted at this site.